

**WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS.**

**Desert and barren land in the country**

**\*207. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:** Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of desert and barren land area in the country as on 30th June, 2006 other than Rajasthan, State-wise;

(b) the increase/decrease in the desert and barren land area during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) what are the main reasons for increase in the desert and barren land areas and the steps being taken to reduce such land;

(d) how far the agricultural production has increased or decreased during the same period, State-wise and year-wise; and

(e) whether some guidance has been obtained from Central Asian countries for development of the rural land; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) As per 'Wastelands Atlas of India-2005' prepared by National Remote Sensing Agency (NRSA), Dept. of Space, the total extent of wastelands in the country is estimated as 55.27 million hectare (43.19 million hectare excluding Rajasthan), which includes 14.6 million hectare (11.15 million hectare excluding Rajasthan) of desert and barren rocky/stony waste area. State-wise details enclosed as Statement-I (See below).

(b) As per earlier data published in Wastelands Atlas of India 2000 by NRSA, reported estimation for desert and barren rocky/stony waste area was 17.04 million hectare (12.5 million hectare excluding Rajasthan). Thus a reduction of 2.44 million hectare (1.35 million hectare excluding Rajasthan) has been noticed between above two estimations. State-wise comparative change is enclosed as Statement-II (See below).

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Ministry is implementing three Area Development Programmes viz. the Integrated Wasteland Development Programme (IWDP), the Desert Development Programme (DDP) and the Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP) to develop desert and barren wasteland on watershed basis through natural resource regeneration. In order to assess the impact of these programmes, the Ministry has conducted impact assessment studies through expert agencies which revealed that there has been significant increase in land productivity, watertable, green vegetative cover, crop yields, net sown area etc. in the programme areas. There has been a mixed trend in agriculture production during the above period. Agricultural production depends on many factors including monsoon. State-wise and Year-wise total foodgrain production is enclosed at Statement-III (See below).

(e) India being a pioneer country in taking initiatives for controlling land and degradation and desertification, it has developed sufficient expertise under Area Development Programmes. So far, no guidance has been sought from Central Asian countries.

### Statement-I

#### State-wise Wasteland of India in 2003 (according to Wastelands Atlas of India, 2005)

(Area in Sq. Kms)

Sl.No.	State	No. of Districts Covered	Total Geog. Area of distts. covered	Total Wastelands Area of distts. covered	% of Total Geog. Area	Total Desert & Barren rocky/stony Area of distts. covered	% of Total Waste-land Area
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	23	275068	45267.15	16.46	3193.06	7.06
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	16	83743	18175.95	21.7	10927.93	60.13
3.	Assam	23	78438	14034.08	17.89	392.7	2.8
4.	Bihar	37	94171	5443.68	5.78	134.8	2.48
5.	Chhattisgarh	16	135194	7584.15	5.26	398.77	5.26

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
6.	Goa	2	3702	531.29	14.35	66.62	12.54
7.	Gujarat	25	196024	20377.74	10.4	134.22	0.66
8.	Haryana	19	44212	3266.45	7.39	237.85	7.29
9.	Himachal Pradesh	12	55673	28336.8	50.9	16789.8	59.26
10.	J&K*	14	101387	70201.99	69.24	57614.68	82.07
11.	Jharkhand	19	79706	11165.26	14.01	418.42	3.75
12.	Karnataka	27	191791	13536.58	7.06	1454.93	10.75
13.	Kerala	14	38863	1788.8	4.6	205.04	11.47
14.	Madhya Pradesh	49	308252	57134.03	18.53	779.19	1.37
15.	Maharashtra	33	307690	49275.41	18.01	2447.79	4.97
16.	Manipur	9	22327	13174.74	59.01	0	0
17.	Meghalaya	7	22429	3411.41	15.21	55.27	1.83
18.	Mizoram	8	21081	4469.88	21.2	0	0
19.	Nagaland	7	16579	3709.4	22.37	0.55	0.02
20.	Orissa	30	155707	18952.74	12.17	745.91	3.94
21.	Punjab	17	50362	1172.84	2.33	126.69	10.81
22.	Rajasthan	32	342239	101453.86	29.64	34558.22	34.07
23.	Sikkim	4	7096	3808.21	53.67	2762.6	72.55
24.	Tripura	4	10486	1322.97	12.62	0	0
25.	Tamil Nadu	29	130058	17303.29	13.3	1550.01	8.96
26.	Uttaranchal	13	53483	16097.46	7.05	9485.65	58.93
27.	Uttar Pradesh	70	240928	16984.16	30.1	1089.09	6.42
28.	West Bengal	18	88752	4397.56	4.95	420.68	9.57
29.	Union Territories	20	10973	314.38	2.87	69.21	22.02
TOTAL:		597	3168414	552692.26	17.45	146059.68	26.43

\*Unsurveyed Areas (J&amp;K) 120849

Total Geographical Area: 3287263

Source: 1:50,000 wasteland maps-2003 prepared based on IRS-LISS III Data

## Statement-II

## Comparison of Wastelands Data (1986—2000 to 2003) (In Sq. Kms.)

Sl. State No.	Number of Districts	1986—2000			2003			Change	
		Total Geographical Area	Total Waste Land Area	Total Desert & Barren rocky/stony Area	Total Waste Land Area	% to TGA	Total Desert & Barren rocky/stony Area	In Waste Land Area	In Desert & Barren rocky/stony Area
1. Andhra Pradesh	23	275068	51750.19	5660.97	45267.15	16.46	3193.06	-6483.04	-2467.91
2. Arunachal Pradesh	16	83743	18326.25	8303.96	18175.95	21.7	10927.93	-150.3	2623.97
3. Assam	23	78438	20019.17	3819.42	14034.08	17.89	392.7	-5985.09	-3426.72
4. Bihar	37	94171	5880	910.99	5443.68	5.78	134.8	-436.32	-776.19
5. Chhattisgarh	16	135194	10185.98	*	7584.15	5.26	398.77	-2601.83	*
6. Goa	2	3702	613.27	58.55	531.29	14.35	66.62	-81.98	8.07
7. Gujarat	25	196024	43021.28	3481.81	20377.74	10AO	134.22	-22643.54	-3347.59
8. Haryana	19	44212	3733.98	570.13	3266.45	7.39	237.85	-467.53	-332.28
9. Himachal Pradesh	12	55673	31659	16522.5	28336.8	50.9	16789.8	-3322.2	267.3
10. Jammu & Kashmir	14	101387	65444.24	55595.73	70201.99	6924	57614.68	4757.75	2018.95
11. Jharkhand	19	79706	15884	*	11165.26	14.01	418.42	-4718.74	*
12. Karnataka	27	191791	20839.28	2671.85	13536.58	7.06	1454.93	-7302.7	-1216.92
13. Kerala	14	38863	1448.18	174.33	1788.8	4.6	205.04	340.62	30.71
14. Madhya Pradesh	49	308252	60732.53	2975.54	157134.03	18.53	779.19	96401.5	-2196.35
15. Maharashtra	33	307690	53469.08	2665.05	49275.41	16.01	2447.79	-4213.67	-217.26
16. Manipur	9	22327	12948.62	0	13174.74	59.01	0	226.12	0
17. Meghalaya	7	22429	9904.38	0	3411.41	15.21	55.27	-6492.97	55.27
18. Mizoram	8	21081	4071.68	0	4469.88	21.2	0	398.2	0

19. Nagaland	7	16579	8404.1	0	3709.4	22.37	0.55	-4694.7	0.55
20. Orissa	30	155707	21341.71	1786.58	18952.74	12.17	745.91	-2388.97	-1040.67
21. Punjab	17	50362	2228.4	619.67	1172.84	2.33	126.69	-1055.56	-492.98
22. Rajasthan	32	342239	105639.11	45438.53	101453.86	29.64	34558.22	-4185.25	-10880.31
23. Sikkim	4	7096	3569.58	1435.9	3808.21	53.67	2762.6	238.63	1326.7
24. Tripura	4	10486	1276.03	0	1322.97	12.62	0	46.94	0
25. Tamil Nadu	29	130058	23013.9	1746.72	17303.29	13.3	1550.01	-5710.61	-196.71
26. Uttar Pradesh	70	240926	22971.6	14816.71	16984.16	7.05	9485.65	-5987.44	-5331.06
27. Uttaranchal	13	53483	16079.72	*	16097.46	30.1	1089.09	17.74	*
28. West Bengal	18	88752	5718.48	1009.59	4397.56	4.95	420.68	-1320.92	-588.91
29. Union Territory	20	10973	574.3	130.38	314.38	2.87	69.21	-259.92	-61.17
<b>Total</b>	<b>597</b>	<b>166412</b>	<b>638618.31</b>	<b>170394.91</b>	<b>552692.26</b>	<b>17.45</b>	<b>146059.68</b>	<b>-86826.05</b>	<b>-24375.23</b>

Note:—\*Values are included in undivided State of Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh for the year 2000.

**Statement-III**  
**Estimates of Area, Production and Yield of Total Foodgrains**

State/UT	Area ('000 Hectares)					Production ('000 Tonnes)											Yield (Kg./Hectare)				
	2000-01		2001-02		(Final)	2000-01		2001-02		(Final)	2000-01		2001-02		(Final)	2000-01		2001-02		(Final)	
	01	02	03	04		05	01	02	03		04	05	01	02		03	04	05	01		02
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16						
Andhra Pradesh	7672.9	7056.4	6289.2	6807.0	6286.8	16029.2	14835.5	10653.6	13697.0	13396.0	2089	2102	1694	2012	2138						
Arunachal Pradesh	187.6	188.4	197.6	191.0	192.6	215.3	217.4	242.3	244.1	226.9	1148	1154	1226	1277	1178						
Assam	2858.9	2755.0	2749.0	2742.0	2575.5	4166.5	4023.0	3894.0	4035.0	3618.2	1457	1460	1417	1472	1405						
Bihar	7117.3	7020.5	7069.9	7005.2	6463.2	12056.3	11682.1	11084.7	11212.6	7704.4	1694	1664	1568	1601	1192						
Chhattisgarh	4925.3	5168.1	5030.2	5256.1	5129.4	2901.3	5779.4	3274.7	6469.8	5023.0	589	1118	651	1231	979						
Goa	68.7	59.3	60.2	63.2	63.4	153.0	136.0	143.4	181.1	155.7	2227	2293	2382	2866	2456						
Gujarat	3070.1	3469.2	3201.2	4033.8	3724.3	2539.0	4905.6	3566.3	6571.3	5257.5	827	1414	1114	1629	1412						
Haryana	4344.9	4251.5	3972.6	4300.0	4240.2	13294.4	13298.1	12328.9	13193.1	13108.0	3060	3128	3103	3068	3092						
Himachal Pradesh	814.2	819.1	813.0	807.4	838.6	1112.2	1600.4	1122.9	1399.4	1612.3	1366	1954	1381	1733	1923						
Jammu & Kashmir	910.8	880.8	876.8	899.2	889.2	1114.5	1325.8	1322.4	1529.6	1499.0	1224	1505	1508	1701	1686						
Jharkhand	1836.0	1870.2	1797.4	1950.0	1872.1	2011.0	2242.2	1893.2	2905.0	2311.1	1095	1199	1053	1490	1234						
Karnataka	7781.7	7175.0	7024.3	6881.7	7563.0	10986.0	8686.7	6664.6	6562.1	10495.0	1412	1212	949	954	1388						
Kerala	365.4	342.9	325.3	299.3	294.5	765.3	718.9	699.7	579.0	670.9	2084	2097	2151	1935	2278						
Madhya Pradesh	10776.5	11849.5	11393.8	12788.5	12473.0	10185.4	13606.8	10748.8	15956.7	14104.8	945	1148	943	1248	1131						
Maharashtra	13382.8	12800.0	12808.8	12008.1	12605.3	10134.9	11187.9	10834.1	10323.0	10540.7	757	874	846	860	836						
Manipur	167.8	173.7	155.0	166.4	167.4	395.8	400.5	343.7	391.9	447.8	2359	2306	2217	2355	2390						
Meghalaya	135.2	134.8	134.7	134.9	134.5	216.0	224.7	227.1	233.8	225.2	1598	1667	1686	1733	1674						
Mizoram	60.9	65.9	69.2	75.2	66.0	124.0	126.3	129.1	139.4	124.6	2036	1917	1868	1854	1888						
Nagaland	229.5	257.5	248.0	262.6	255.8	322.7	355.4	388.0	409.8	403.5	1406	1380	1565	1561	1577						

Orissa	5245.4	5407.2	4991.7	5388.1	5299.7	4984.2	7564.1	3573.7	7156.9	6889.7	850	1399	716	1328	1300
Punjab	6281.1	6160.3	6137.0	6293.6	6354.3	25324.5	24886.9	23491.2	24728.4	25670.7	4032	4040	3828	3929	4040
Rajasthan	11372.8	12743.8	8628.6	13972.0	12054.9	10040.6	14003.7	7536.0	17993.8	12150.8	883	1098	873	1288	1008
Sikkim	76.1	76.6	72.4	71.6	73.9	103.2	98.7	96.6	98.9	103.9	1356	1289	1334	1385	1406
Tamil Nadu	3500.9	3500.9	2756.4	2864.2	3295.9	8616.9	7731.9	4442.1	4406.6	6175.8	2481	2209	1612	1539	1874
Tripura	253.9	256.5	267.3	249.5	255.4	523.1	597.5	611.8	528.1	556.4	2060	2311	2289	2121	2179
Uttar Pradesh	20295.1	20397.8	19116.1	20187.3	19293.8	42714.9	44136.5	38141.6	44246.5	37836.3	2105	2164	1985	2182	1961
Uttaranchal	1008.3	980.3	1033.6	1031.0	1038.0	1726.4	1707.5	1559.1	1724.0	1761.0	1712	1742	1508	1672	1697
West Bengal	6192.4	6806.5	6538.5	6611.9	6475.7	13815.0	18501.2	15522.1	16008.7	18055.4	2231	2424	2374	2421	2479
A & N Islands	11.6	10.2	12.2	11.5	11.5	32.6	27.5	32.7	31.5	29.7	2810	2696	2680	2739	2583
D & N Haveli	22.0	24.3	23.2	22.2	22.8	28.7	40.0	33.2	31.1	32.6	1305	1646	1431	1401	1430
Delhi	46.5	44.4	37.5	40.7	35.3	108.8	119.5	106.5	123.5	102.1	2340	2691	2840	3034	2892
Daman & Diu	3.3	3.1	2.9	3.1	3.0	4.5	5.1	4.4	5.0	5.2	1364	1645	1517	1613	1733
Pondicherry	32.4	27.9	26.4	28.1	29.0	67.9	68.4	58.9	68.7	67.6	2086	2452	2231	2445	2331
All India	121048.3	122779.6	113860.0	123446.5	120078.0	196814.1	212851.2	174771.4	213199.4	198362.8	1626	1734	1535	1727	1652